

Public Services Committee

March 19, 2019
Park Department Office
521 Robert Ellis Young Drive

Public Services Committee Members Present: Brady Beckham, Juan Topete and Mike Daugherty.
Member Absent: James Harrison

Staff Present: Alan Bull, Mark Peterson & Melanie Blizzard.

Non-Members Present: Ceri Otero, Wendi Douglas, Kip Smith, Tyler Wornell and Jonathan Roberts.

At 5:31 PM Mr. Beckham called the meeting to order.

Mr. Daugherty moved to approve minutes from the February 19, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Public Participation

Ms. Wendi Douglas approached the Committee to ask permission for use of the square on April 13 from 10:00 to 5:00. This would be a Carthage Council of Arts event. Ms. Douglas asked for a few picnic tables, some trash containers and also permission for some vendor sales. Part of the sales would be food trucks and part would be craft vendors. The Committee asked if Ms. Douglas had talked to the Public Safety Committee, Ms. Douglas stated she had and they had agreed to her requests at that meeting. The Committee had no problem with the requests and Mr. Beckham stated he would bring it forward at the next Council meeting and ask for Council approval.

Old Business:
None

New Business:

1. Consider and discuss possible paddle race at Kellogg Lake/Spring River- Mr. Smith addressed the Committee about an event he would like to have at Kellogg Lake. This event would be a home-made paddle boat race. The date for the race will be July 19th and 20th. Mr. Smith is hoping for a 50 team entry and will be working with local business's to try and get them involved. The actual race will be held on Spring River but the rest of the event will be located in the park. Any revenue produced from the event will be donated to the Kellogg Lake Board for future improvements to the Park. Mr. Smith reported he had already approached the Public Safety Committee and had their support. The Fire Department will have their rescue boat at the event, two barricades will be set up to control traffic, and two police officers will be on site that will be paid for by the event. Mr. Smith asked the Public Services Committee for permission to sell beer and food on site. The beer sales would be through a licensed local vendor and the food

would probably be in the form of a food truck. Mr. Smith asked about electricity for the event, would the City take care of it or did they need to. Mr. Bull explained that events such as this were responsible for securing that service but he would be happy to first contact CW&EP to see what could be done. Mr. Smith also asked for several picnic tables and trash containers. Mr. Bull stated this would be no problem. Lastly Mr. Smith requested permission to have camping in the park as there needed to be some people on site to watch the equipment and boats that would be brought in on Friday. Mr. Bull reported this would be no problem as he would alert the Police Department and let them know. There was a back and forth discussion in regards to the event with the Committee being in favor of the event. Mr. Topete asked about what happens to parts of boats that float down the river. Mr. Smith stated there would be people from the local bass club stationed downstream to catch any debris and also to catch any people that fall into the water.

Mr. Daugherty moved to recommend to Council allowing the paddle boat race to be held at Kellogg Lake July 19 & 20. This will include permission for the sale of food and beer, if all licensing requirements are met and event insurance is acquired. Motion carried.

2. Consider and discuss possible contract with YMCA for pool management- Mr. Roberts addressed the Committee about the possible agreement to manage the City Pools for the 2019 season. Mr. Bull stated he and Mr. Roberts had met and discussed the contract and the idea of lowering the rate. Mr. Bull stated that Mr. Roberts had explained his reasoning for the rates and that they really couldn't be lowered. So Mr. Bull felt it best to have Mr. Roberts explain to the Committee why the rate was where it is. Mr. Roberts explained how the new minimum wage was affecting the YMCA budget wise and explained the increase was really the same percentage that the wage had gone up. The Committee discussed the increase of participation at the pool and how the YMCA had been managing the pool. Mr. Roberts stated the number one problem at the pool is the cold temperature due to having to re-fill the pool everyday. Mr. Roberts felt he could bring in many more customers and have more repeat business if the pool wasn't so cold. The Committee asked about the YMCA members using the pool stating that seemed to be a benefit for the Y. Mr. Beckham questioned the numbers in regards to more visits but not that much revenue increase. After discussion it was shown that the record keeping differed from the City to the Y that explained part of the difference. The Committee and Mr. Roberts also discussed the possibility of a new aquatics facility and how that might progress. Mr. Bull stated that he felt the Y had done a very good job managing the pool and would continue to.

Mr. Daugherty moved to recommend to Council approving the pool management contract with the YMCA as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Bull stated that if the Committee would agree, could number six be moved up to number three. Ms. Blizzard was in attendance for this item and needed to leave as soon as possible.

Mr. Daugherty moved to amend the agenda by moving item number six to item number three. Motion carried.

3. Consider and discuss Memorial Hall stage floor refinishing bid- Ms. Blizzard reported that there had only been one bid submitted for the floor work. Ms. Blizzard stated there had been

three different contractors look at the project and show interest but only the single bid was received. The bid submitted was from Baugh Floors, the same company that had re-finished the auditorium floors last year. The submitted bid was in the amount of \$9,906.68. The amount budgeted for this project was \$9,000. Mr. Bull stated that the stage floor being worked on is much larger than it appears from the auditorium, one of the reasons for the cost. Mr. Bull stated that he noticed there was something mentioned on the bid about prevailing wage. The threshold to trigger prevailing wage is now \$75,000 for a single project. Ms. Blizzard stated she had talked to them about it but that it was stated the bid was accurate. Mr. Bull stated that he wanted to call Mr. Baugh and just double check on the rate. The Committee agreed.

Mr. Daugherty moved to recommend to Council accepting the bid from Baugh Floors to re-finish the stage floor at Memorial Hall contingent upon Mr. Bull checking on the prevailing wage issue. Motion carried.

4. Consider and discuss possible adult softball contract- Mr. Bull reported that the person running the softball league last year really only had about half a season due to the lighting problems at the field. Mr. Bull felt he deserved another season to try and see what he can do with the program. The agreement presented was the same as last years with no changes.

Mr. Topete moved to recommend to Council accepting the softball agreement as written. Motion carried.

5. Consider and discuss possible sale of surplus mowers- Mr. Bull reported he had received one bid for the mowers that were declared surplus several months ago. Mr. Bull was not that happy about the amount offered but since the mowers really had no value for the City it was probably better to sell them and have them out of the way. Mr. Beckham asked if Mr. Bull had looked into scrap prices for the mower. Mr. Bull stated that he actually had due to the low bid but it looked like a couple of hundred dollars would be about all they would get at scrap weight.

Mr. Daugherty moved to recommend to Council approving the sale of the surplus golf mowers to the Stockton Country Club in the amount of \$500.00. Motion carried.

6. Consider and discuss possible golf fee increase- Mr. Peterson reported to the Committee on the thoughts behind a possible fee increase for memberships at the golf course. After looking at the fees from other area courses and seeing where Carthage was headed it was felt some changes to fees should be made. The Carthage course has been seeing an increase in rounds but a decrease in revenues. This was found to be caused by an increase in member and senior play. This play causes our revenue per round to be lower than what is needed to sustain the course. One of the proposed changes would be a price break for people living within the city limits of Carthage. The course hasn't had this fee in the past but it was felt there was merit in such a fee. The Committee discussed the fees and the golf course and how the course is funded. Mr. Bull pointed out that membership fees hadn't been changed for quite some time and was overdue for some adjusting.

Mr. Daugherty moved to recommend to Council adopting the new membership fees at the Carthage Golf Course as presented. Motion carried.

Staff Reports

Parks and Recreation Director-Alan Bull

Mr. Bull reported on the February golf report. Once again rounds were above projections but more importantly revenue was also higher than projected. Mr. Bull stated it was only two and a half percent but it was still above what was expected. Mr. Bull also pointed out that this was the third month in a row that revenue had beaten the projections. Mr. Bull also stated that if there is a strong spring like last year the course could get close to budgeted revenue. Mr. Bull also stated he didn't like to make projections, but felt it could be closer than thought just a few months ago.

Mr. Bull reported on the park crew getting things ready for spring. Bathrooms had been opened and water was being turned on at the ball park.

Mr. Peterson gave an up-date on the golf course and how he was working to increase play. This sparked a debate on what could be done to bring in more revenue. Mr. Topete asked what Mr. Peterson was doing that would help the course. Mr. Peterson explained all the marketing strategy being used, adding another event to fill the slowest day at the course and how scheduling tournaments was helping to fill in slow times. There was some discussion about the golf app being used at the course, Instagram, Facebook and other methods being used to help get play from the 20 to 40 age group. Mr. Peterson reported it was a constant struggle as there just weren't the new players coming into the game that is needed.

Mr. Topete moved to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32.